

Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is respectfully requested. Applicants submit that the instant amendment places all claims in this application in condition for allowance. Claims 1-48 are pending in this application upon entry of this Amendment. In this Amendment, claims 16 and 48 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added.

In the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006, the Examiner acknowledged that claims 1-15 and 17-47 were allowed. However, claims 16 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Particularly, the Examiner stated that claims 16 and 48 were single means claims. The Examiner further stated that “A single means claim which covered all conceivable means for achieving the stated purpose was held nonenabling for the scope of the claim because the specification disclosed at most only those means known to the inventor.” (Office Action, page 2.)

In response to the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006, Applicants have amended claims 16 and 48 to contain structural limitations so as to render the Examiner’s rejections moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. As such, claims 16 and 48 are patentable.


CONCLUSION

In summary, claims 1-48 meet the substantive requirements for patentability and this case, including all claims, is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a question is invited at the convenience of the Examiner

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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